

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SP-02 AID-05 EB-07 NSC-05

CIEP-01 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 XMB-02 OPIC-03

LAB-04 SIL-01 L-03 H-02 PA-01 PRS-01 ACDA-05 SAM-01

AGR-05 PM-03 CEQ-01 CG-00 OFA-01 DLOS-04 DODE-00

DOT-00 EPA-01 ERDA-05 FMC-01 INT-05 JUSE-00 NSF-01

OES-03 FEA-01 /134 W

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INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY REYKJEVIK

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

C O N F I D E N T I A L COPENHAGEN 1748

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UN, EGEN, DA

SUBJECT: DANISH VIEWS ON UNGA SPECIAL SESSION

AND THE LDC CHALLENGE

REF: A) COPENHAGEN 1726; B) STATE 133602; C) STATE 122992

1. SUMMARY: IN RECENT DISCUSSIONS WITH FONOFF OFFICE
DIRECTOR ISAKSEN WHO IS KEY DANISH OFFICIAL
RESPONSIBLE FOR POLICY ON UN ECONOMIC QUESTIONS,
WE WERE GIVEN CLEAR IMPRESSION THAT THE DANES ARE
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LOOKING AT PRESENT CHALLENGES BY THE DEVELOPING

COUNTRIES BOTH PHLEGMATICALLY AND FATALISTICALLY. ISAKSEN SAW NO EVIDENCE THAT THE LDCS WOULD MODERATE THEIR UN CONFRONTATION TACTICS AND FELT THAT, IN ANY EVENT, A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF CONFRONTATION IS NECESSARY AND PROBABLY HEALTHY AT THIS JUNCTURE. GIVEN THE UNREALISTIC POSITIONS TAKEN BY THE LDC ON A BROAD RANGE OF ISSUES, HE SAW LITTLE ALTERNATIVE. END SUMMARY

2. ISAKSEN BELIEVES THAT THE WESTERN COUNTRIES ARE NOT LIKELY, IN THE PERIOD PRIOR TO THE SEVENTH SPECIAL UNGA, TO BE ABLE TO AGREE ON SIGNIFICANT CONCESSIONS WHICH COULD COME ANYWHERE CLOSE TO SATISFYING THE LDCS. HE THOUGHT THAT MAJOR CONCESSIONS BY THE WESTERN COUNTRIES WOULD BE POSSIBLE ONLY WHEN IT BECOMES ABUNDANTLY CLEAR THAT THESE ARE IN THEIR "ENLIGHTENED SELF-INTEREST."

3. FOR WESTERN AGREED POSITIONS TO BE ACHIEVED, ISAKSEN FELT THAT EITHER PRESSURES FROM THE G-77 WOULD HAVE TO BE INCREASED IN INTENSITY MAKING CONCESSIONS BY THE WESTERN COUNTRIES ESSENTIAL, OR, PREFERABLY, A BREAK IN THE AMAZINGLY STRONG UNITED LDC FRONT WOULD HAVE TO OCCUR WHICH COULD IMPROVE PROSPECTS FOR MORE REASONABLE COOPERATIVE SOLUTIONS.

4. WHILE SECRETARY KISSINGER'S OECD MINISTERIAL SPEECH HAS PROVIDED BROAD OUTLINES OF A POSSIBLE RESPONSE TO THE LDCS, THE DETAILS REMAIN TO BE FILLED IN. ACCORDING TO ISAKSEN, THE DANES AND OTHER EUROPEANS ARE WAITING FOR NEW, SPECIFIC IDEAS FROM THE US WHICH, IN HIS VIEW, HAVE NOT YET BEEN PRESENTED WITH CLARITY OR FORCEFULNESS AT OECD MEETINGS SUBSEQUENT TO THE MINISTERIAL. WHILE LOOKING TO THE US FOR INSPIRATION AND LEADERSHIP, ISAKSEN WAS NOT VERY sanguine THAT, EVEN WITH FORCEFUL US LEADERSHIP, THE WESTERN COUNTRIES COULD BE PERSUADED TO ADOPT UNIFIED POSITIONS WHICH WOULD HAVE ANY IMPACT ON LDC THINKING PRIOR TO, OR DURING, THE SEVENTH SPECIAL CONFIDENTIAL

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UNGA.

5. ISAKSEN THEREFORE SEES THE DEVELOPMENT OF CONSTRUCTIVE COOPERATIVE PROGRAMS WITH THE LDCS AS A LONG-RANGE PROJECT. FOR THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE, HE SEES CONFRONTATION REMAINING THE ORDER OF THE DAY. THIS, HE BELIEVES, COULD BE UTILIZED BY THE WESTERN COUNTRIES NOT ONLY TO EDUCATE THE LDCS

AND SHARPEN THE ISSUES BUT ALSO TO PROVIDE THE WESTERN COUNTRIES WITH A CLEARER VIEW ON THE PROGRAMS REALISTICALLY OBTAINABLE AMONG THEMSELVES IN MEETING THE LDC CHALLENGE. HE THOUGHT THAT, IN ANY EVENT, TIME IS NECESSARY SINCE THE WESTERN COUNTRIES ARE NOT LIKELY TO BE ABLE TO COME UP WITH ANY SIGNIFICANT OFFERS TO THE LDCS WHILE THEIR OWN ECONOMIES REMAIN UNDER SERIOUS STRESS.

6. IN SUM, THE ECONOMIC SIDE OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY VIEWS THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE DARKLY, HAS NO CONSTRUCTIVE THOUGHTS ON AMELIORATING THE SITUATION AND LOOKS TO THE US FOR POLICY SUGGESTIONS, WHICH MIGHT, IN THE LONGER RUN, LEAD TO A COORDINATED WESTERN POSITION ON MEETING THE CHALLENGE OF THE LDC WITH REASONABLE PROSPECTS OF SUCCESS.
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